

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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March 18, 2013

The Honorable Aaron Schock
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph Crowley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Schock, Crowley and Owens:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, applauds the introduction of H.R. 1020, the "Low Value Shipment Regulatory Modernization Act of 2013," which would increase the *de minimis* value for shipments that must be processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Such an increase would facilitate legitimate trade, reduce transaction costs, and improve security at U.S. ports of entry.

A *de minimis* value covering the entry process for low-valued goods is a critical tool in trade facilitation. The current value of \$200 has not been changed since 1993, and it fails to reflect the modern reality of online commerce. In addition, the cost incurred by CBP in processing these goods may exceed any possible revenue that would be collected, and a *de minimis* increase would allow CBP to focus their resources on higher risk shipments. By increasing the value to \$800, and including a provision for increasing that amount based on inflation, this bill would simplify entry requirements and reduce transaction costs for small- and medium-sized businesses.

This bill would also clear the path for U.S. negotiators working on future free trade agreements to begin to push for commercially meaningful *de minimis* levels from our trading partners, which is essential to promoting market access and efficient supply chains.

The Chamber appreciates your leadership on this important issue and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: The Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means